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# PAARA

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## Graphs



**palo alto  
AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSN.**

MENLO PARK C.D. RADIO CLUB, K6YQT

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PAARAGRAPHS is the official organ of

The Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association & the Menlo Park Civil Defence Radio Club

\*\*\*\*\*

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Field Day-phone : Bob Wheeler  
Club nets : 147.45 MHZ, Monday 8:30 pm L.T. & 14.287 MHZ, Monday 9:00 pm L.T.

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PAARAGRAPHS STAFF

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Written contributions to the P.O. Box above, or to the Editor, 1140 Sherman Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025, tel. no. 854-6445. Deadline is two or three days after the Board of Directors meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

Friday, April 1, 1983

7:30 pm

R E G U L A R M E E T I N G

LIGHT COMMUNICATIONS

by

Dr. Robert Honey

Dr. Honey will demonstrate electrically-polarizable glass, developed by Corning Glass, which is being used to modulate light at up to 25 Gigabits per second. Come and see the communications of the future!

Meeting to be held at the Menlo Park Recreation Centre, Alma at Mielke, Menlo Park. Future meetings: May 6, June 3.

Circle the Date

April 1, 1983

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: Many good comments were heard about Bill Jenkin's, WB6LML, talk last meeting. Bill gave us a good overview of the problems of Cable TV, (maintenance), and the solutions, (fiber optics). Actually it's not quite that simple, and the Cable TV business looks fairly complex, technically speaking. But if a cable leaks on 145.25, you know who is going to get the blame! Bill handed out a three page reference document with the TV frequencies on it. Would you believe 7MHz through 931MHz? It's pretty tough to stay out of someone's way when they're authorized DC to daylight. Also included was a chart for horizontal Yagi spacing to put an offending signal in the pattern null (fixed antenna). Also included for Cam, K6RU, was a wind loading vs wind velocity chart plus an ice loading map for the U.S., and for Ed Johnson, a line of sight distance vs antenna Height chart. In the fine print was a note that polystyrene cable has a velocity of propagation of .92, while polyethelyene has .81. You might want those figures if you bought some surplus distribution cable at the Foothill Flea Market on March 19.

I would like to make a pitch for more people to wear their name tags at the meetings. We have lots of new members who might remember your call or even your name if they saw it a few times. Make them feel more comfortable by wearing your name tag!

The Board has lots of work to do this year, so, please if you are a Board member, ATTEND THE MEETINGS!

de Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV

CONTEST: The VHF/UHF Spring Sprints are coming, starting on Monday, April 18 for the 2-metre version. The Sprints are short and simple contests, running from 6pm to midnight local time. To participate, you will need to know your VHF grid locator. If you are between 37 and 38 degrees north latitude, and between

122 and 124 degrees west longitude, you are in CM 87. This includes the Peninsula northwest of Saratoga and Moffett Field.

The contest rules allow only the following frequencies for FM operation. 144.90-145.10; 146.49; 146.55; 146.58; 147.42; 147.45; 147.48; 147.51; 147.54; and 147.57 MHz. Notice that 146.52 and repeater frequencies are forbidden. SSB and CW activity will probably be down in the low end of the band.

For any who are actually keeping score, the score is the number of QSO's multiplied by the number of different grid squares worked.

This contest will be on a Monday night, which will overlap with the PAARA Net on 2 metres at 8:30pm, both in time and frequency.

(The above piece was delivered unsigned, but was probably authored by Allen Larson - Ed.)

From the Ex-G Radio Club Bulletin.

LAND'S END TO JOHN O'GROATS WITH A 2-METRE RIG

by

David Adams, VE3HBF/G4NWA/P

The ambition to walk the length of Britain had been in the back of my mind for a few years. I retired in February 1982 and this gave me the time to do it.

I applied for a UK licence in November 1981. Friends at my office gave me an ICOM IC2AT for a parting present, and on April 4 I flew to England, arriving just in time to watch the fleet sail for the Falk-

lands. To get in shape I had spent weekends for two summers walking the Bruce Trail, which follows the Niagara escarpment for 430 miles up to Tobermory. I turned up in hiking kit at VE3HZA's (Ernie Shaw) Hamilton home just a half mile off the trail for the memorable get-together of Ex-G's from both sides of the border in June 1981.

I spent the winter of 1981-82 planning my route from Land's End to John O'Groats. Now in England I spent three weeks organizing my equipment, visiting friends and doing some practicing with a full pack.

My original intention had been to camp out sometimes when it might be hard to find lodgings. I reckoned the journey would take three months at an average thirteen miles a day. But when I tried it out on the North Downs Way from my brother's home in Westerham, I quickly realized my pack was too heavy at forty-seven pounds. So I decided to leave tent and cooking equipment behind and bed & breakfast my way across Britain.

My U.K. licence hadn't come through, so I went to R.S.G.B. HQ in London, and from there on to the licensing office at Waterloo Bridge House. It was the Thursday before Easter, and the office had closed at noon! After Easter, I phoned and was assured that the licence would be through any day. It came just two days before I left for Cornwall. My call was G4NWA, which soon became known as "Never Walk Alone". The "Cornish Riviera" express whisked me to Penzance; Bob Allbright, G2JL, drove me to Sennen Cove and watched me climb the cliff path to Land's End a mile away. Bob had arranged for me to visit the Cable & Wireless Engineering College at Porthcurno, a few miles along the coast. There, where the first submarine cable from India came ashore in 1870, 40 instructors teach one hundred students from a score of countries, including the Falklands, everything from



magnetic theory to complex satellite technology. On the cliffs above Porthcurno I saw the remains of the aerial mast used by the Eastern Telegraph Co. to eavesdrop on Marconi's transatlantic experiments across Mount's Bay at Poldhu. I reached Poldhu by the cliff-top Cornwall Coast Path two days later. The Marconi memorial stands high on a bleak headland looking west across the Atlantic, commemorating the successful transmission of the morse letter "S" to Signal Hill in Newfoundland in 1901, and the first transatlantic shortwave beam transmissions some twenty years later. A few miles inland from Poldhu on the Lizard Peninsula is Goonhilly Downs earth station, whose giant "dishes" are visible for miles across the flat open heath. Bob, G2JL, had also arranged for me to tour this fascinating place where Britain's radio, TV, telex and cable communications are sent by satellite to just about any point on the globe.

My IC2AT kept me in touch with other amateurs throughout my walk. I carried it in my shirt pocket, specially reinforced by my XYL Betty. I went to the ICOM distributors, Thanet Electronics, in the tiny village of Beltinge, Kent, for a 230-volt charger and spare nicad battery pack. This enabled me to recharge batteries at my overnight stops.

I spent a night in Bodmin, on the edge of the moor that was the setting for Daphne duMaurier's "Jamaica Inn". Ken Mildren, G3FVD, took me to his QTH for coffee. With my ICOM and his antenna, we had QSO's with Wales, Devon and other places. I found that there are hundreds of G6's who haven't passed the CW test, but are very active on 2 metres, and some are very keen on 2 metre DX from any convenient high spot.

After walking across the heart of Dartmoor, and spending a night on a farm within sight of the great gaol at Princetown, I called on old friends near Tiverton. For the next ten days or so I was able to work through

the GB3WR repeater on a one thousand foot TV tower on a nine-hundred foot hill at Wells in Somerset. It has an amazing range, and seems to be always busy, yet I found it easy to access because users nearly always paused between transmissions for any breakers. I talked to people as far away as Swindon (sixty miles) and the Channel Isles (one hundred miles); and I was pleasantly surprised as I walked briefly on a main road when a car stopped and the driver hailed me. David Thorpe, G80GN, had heard me on two metres, and he took me to a nearby pub for a pint of refreshing Somerset cider. This was the first of several such encounters that brightened my days. A day or two later in the village of Stoneaston, I was testing my rig before leaving my overnight stop, and contacted a chap who passed by in his truck as we were talking.

In Toronto, Tom Atkins, VE3CDM, and Al D'Eon, VE3AND, were monitoring 14 and 21 MHz for news of my progress, but conditions were abysmally poor for G-VE contacts through all my weeks on the road. John Smart, G3CJS, in Malvern acted as my UK message centre, and I called him by landline every week. I met him in Upton-on-Severn and he took me to his QTH high on the Malvern Hills. From midnight on we tried in vain to get through to Canada. A few days later I was in Kinver at the home of Art Davies, G4JY. He put out a call, and who should come back but Art Sylvah, VE3FMB, in Burlington, an old friend and the former editor of The Ontario Amateur. A month and a day after leaving Land's End, this was the first direct contact with Canada. Earlier that same day I had stopped by the home of Jim Peden, G3ZQQ, between Kinver and Kidderminster, and had a pleasant ragchew sitting in the garden in the hot sun. This was the start of a week-long heat wave that lasted until I got to the home of Trevor Pendleton, G4IRH, in Kegworth near Derby. Kegworth wasn't exactly on my way; I walked east from Lichfield to get there. But I had spent Christmas holidays there with a schoolfriend in 1927-8 and

wanted to visit old haunts. Trevor and his family put me up for two nights and I had a fine respite from walking. His XYL Lesley gave my clother a thorough washing - something impossible when I was on the go every day. And I had a feast of mail from home.

A few days earlier, I had walked into Wolverhampton and spent an hour with Gordon, G4DGM, who was shortly leaving for Canada. He has a splendid camper van fitted with everything you could want in a mobile ham station. Gordon wouldn't let me walk through the centre of busy Wolverhampton, and so he drove me to the other side to resume my walk. I left my white terry-cloth hat at his place, and this weird-looking thing was an essential though unflattering part of my hiking gear. Sometime later I contacted Gordon on two metres, and in my mail at Kegworth I was happy to recover the hat. Hurrah for amateur radio, so handy in emergencies both great and small!

Trevor took me to see Chatsworth House, the palatial home of the Dukes of Devonshire, and one of the stateliest of Britain's stately homes. En route we passed through the small town of Matlock, and drove up a long steep hill to Lowe Electronics, the Kenwood distributors, with well-stocked showrooms in this unlikely spot.

Walking the Pennine Way, Britain's most rugged long-distance path across the high moorlands that separate the industrial cities of Yorkshire and Lancashire, I was glad to have the company of my brother as a fellow hiker for a few days. Walkers are advised to go in three's as the weather can be treacherous and you can sink above the knee in boggy peat in wet conditions. With three people, if one gets hurt, one can go for help while the third stays with the injured one. With us, my ICOM rig was the person who could summon the help that we never needed.



At Penrith, Cumbria, I stayed with Eric, G3GRX, with whom I've had regular skeds for six years. He drove me to Keswick so that I could report on it for readers in Keswick, Ontario, four miles from my home QTH. He also managed with great difficulty to make contact with my Toronto friends.

Soon after this I walked into Brampton, close by Hadrian's Wall, built by the Romans to keep out the Picts and Scots. I crossed the border into Scotland in pouring rain and changed my call to GM4NWA/P.

At Falkirk, my bed and breakfast stop was three minutes walk from Alistair Murray's (GM4EJX) chemist shop. We stood chatting on the sidewalk and called up various local hams on my ICOM. Next Day as I headed for Stirling, a carload of hams drove over to meet me on the road near Bannockburn, and arranged a get-together for me that evening in Bridge of Allan with members of the Stirling ARC. From Stirling I headed west through Aberfoyle to the shores of Loch Lomond and the West Highland footpath, which I followed for six days to Fort William and Scotland's highest mountain, Ben Nevis. While scrambling in heavy rain over slippery rocks through the forested slopes above the Loch, I met a young chap carrying a fishing rod. As we approached, I realized it was a 5/8 whip antenna. This was Mark Clark, GM6JYT, from Glasgow; he'd heard about me through the R.S.G.B. bulletins - but it seemed an unlikely spot for an "eyeball"! For the next five days I walked with two Canadians, a father and son from Scarborough, Ontario. At a nightstop in remote Crianlarich, I put out a random call on simplex and back came a reply at S9 from Gordon, GM4LFA/M who had stopped for a few minutes in the parking lot of the pub not a half mile from me, while on his way back to Glasgow. Small world!

I parted from my Canadian friends and walked into Fort William while chatting with GM6DPT, John, in Corpach.

Next Day I was striding along the road to Spean Bridge when a car pulled up and a chap jumped out and snapped my picture. This was John, come to see how I was getting on. He produced coffee and doughnuts and we had a great old chat. On hearing that my camera had let me down (six rolls of slides were all duds), John produced a pocket Minolta which he insisted I borrow for the rest of the trek. I accepted gladly and mailed it back in due course. Not bad for a total stranger - but typical of the amateur radio brotherhood!

George, GM4DKL, near Invergordon, fetched me from my bed and breakfast stop in Alness and drove me to his home for the evening. Don Robertson, GM3JDR, is a lighthouse keeper at Wick. He lives six miles from John O'Groats, and I spent my last evening on the road with him and his family. John, GM4LNU, in Inverness tried in vain to contact VE3, and ended by 'phoning my Toronto friends.

At John O'Groats, I was met by my son Gordon who had flown over from Canada. We went on by ferry to Orkney, where Bill Wright, GM4IBU, was a genial host and guide. Thus ended a splendid adventure.

(Hope everyone enjoyed this article. For the benefit of any club members who may be going to the British Isles, a list of repeaters and simplex channels.)

Channel	Input	Output	Channel	Input	Output
R0	145.000	145.600	R1	145.025	145.625
R2	145.050	145.650	R3	145.075	145.675
R4	145.100	145.700	R5	145.125	145.725
R6	145.150	145.750	R7	145.175	145.775

#### Simplex Channels

S8	145.200	S9	145.225
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S10 145.250  
S12 145.300  
S14 145.350  
S16 145.400  
S18 145.450  
S20 145.500  
S22 145.550

S11 145.275  
S13 145.325  
S15 145.375  
S17 145.425  
S19 145.475  
S21 145.525  
S23 145.575

Accessing: The following method should be employed.  
A tone of 1750HZ should be transmitted for at least  
half a second, followed by more than five seconds of  
speech.

Callsign	Channel	Location
GB3AE	R5	Barnoldswick, N. Yorks.
AM	R6	Longbridge, S. Birmingham
AR	R4	Caernarfon, Gwynedd
AS	R1	Caldbeck, Cumbria
BC	R6	Newport, Gwent
BM	R5	Central Birmingham
BP	R6	Horsham, W. Sussex
BT	R4	Berwick-upon-Tweed
BX	R2	North Birmingham
CF	R0	Leicester
CS	R6	Motherwell, Scotland
DA	R5	Danbury, Essex
EL	R0	Hevering, E. London
ES	R7	Hastings, E. Sussex
EV	R4	Appelby, Cumbria
FF	R0	Burntisland, Fife, Scotland
FR	R7	Boston, Lincs.
GN	R7	Aberdeen, Scotland
HG	R1	Northallerton, N. Yorks.
HH	R4	Buxton, Derbyshire

GB3HI	R4	Isle of Mull, Scotland
HS	R2	Kingston upon Hull, Humber
KN	R4	Maidstone, Kent
KS	R1	Dover, Kent
LD	R3	Ulverston, Lake District
LM	R5	Lincoln
LY	R0	Limavady, Co. Londonderry, N. Ireland
MB	R0	North Manchester
MH	R3	Malvern Hills
MN	R2	Stockport, Cheshire
MP	R6	Moel-Y-Parc, Clwyd, No. Wales
NA	R3	Barnsley, S. Yorks.
NB	R1	Tacolneston; Norfolk
NC	R5	St. Austell, Cornwall
NI	R5	Belfast; N. Ireland
NL	R7	Enfield, N. London
PI	R6	Royston, Herts
PO	R3	Martlesham Heath, Suffolk
PR	R3	Perth, Scotland
P.W	R3	Newtown, Powys, Mid Wales
RD	R3	Reading, Berks.
RF	R7	Burnley, Lancs.
SB	R2	Duns, Berwickshire
SC	R1	Bournemouth, Dorset
SI	R1	St. Ives, Cornwall
SL	R2	Crystal Palace, S. London
SN	R5	Alton, Hampshire
SR	R3	Brighton, Sussex
SS	R0	Elgin, Scotland
TR	R2	Torquay, Devon
T.W	R5	Tyne and Wear
TY	R6	Hexham, Northumberland



GB3VA	R4	Aylesbury, Bucks.
VT	R1	Stoke on Trent
WD	R4	West Devon
WH	R2	Swindon, Wilts.
WL	R1	Hillingdon, W. London
WR	R0	Wells, Somerset
WT	R7	West Tyrone, N. Ireland
WW	R7	Carmel, Dyfed
YJ	R7	Leamington Spa

EILDK	R0	Dublin, Republic of Ireland
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	SB630	station console with phone patch	\$110
	Tempo S-4	450 handi-talkie with pl and touch-tone	\$200

Call 408 946-2885 Daniel, WB6STW

BOARD MEETING REPORT: The board meeting of 9th March, 1983 took place at the club trailer with barely a quorum present. "Where", asked Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV, "are the new board members? Some haven't attended a single board meeting."

The big news of the evening was that Ed Fairbanks has his replacement for the job of refreshment-making at the Club meetings; Frank Cameron? has volunteered.

Gerry Tucker threatened a surprise, snap inspection of Post 599 H.Q., saying that piles of junk on the floor and sheet rock missing from the walls wasn't O.K.

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